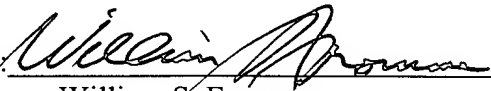


changes made by this Preliminary Amendment are illustrated in the attached marked-up version entitled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

An early examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
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"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 40, lines 15-20 to read as follows:

--On the contrary, when it is determined that the received ID for the content management program 111 is [not] invalid, the EMD registration server 3 will send a predetermined error message to the display/operation instruction program 112 via the network 2. When the ID for the content management program 111 is invalid, the display/operation instruction program 112 cannot acquire the authenticate key 301 and EMD selection program 131.--

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 72, lines 6-9 to read as follows:

--If at step S42, it is determined that the button 384 for acquisition of information corresponding to a CD has not been clicked, it is not necessary to acquire the information corresponding to the CD, so the operation slips over steps S43 and S44 and goes to step S45.--

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 90, line 19 to page 91, line 5 to read as follows:

--Note that it also suffices to judge whether a package to which [a package to which] contents belong is from a CD, not to judge whether the maximum number of possible checkouts for one of the contents is equal to that for the other content and whether a playback time limit or number of times of playback is set for each of the contents. If it is determined that the package to which the contents belong is from a CD, the contents may be combined together. Also note that for a content recorded from a CD, the maximum number of possible checkouts is constant, three for example and no playback time limit or number of times playback is set.--